

THE MARY BRICKELL GARDEN CLUB

MEMBER APPLICATION

ANNUAL DUES: \$20.00

PRESIDENT Ralph Beaudry
VICE-PRESIDENT Duke McBride
TREASURER Mandy Framil
RECORDING SECRETARY Carmen Petsoules
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Joe Wilkins

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____

For more information, please contact Carmen Petsoules at 854-1376

ROADS NEIGHBORHOOD - HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

The first recorded residents of the area were Jonathin and Polly Lewis who were granted a large piece of local land, including the future "Roads" neighborhood, by the Spanish government in the early 1800s. John and Polly were professional scavengers who made their living by grabbing and selling everything they could from the many ships which would wreck in the shallow water off our coast. This business went bust with the construction of the Cape Florida lighthouse so John and Polly packed off to Texas, leaving their Florida land unclaimed.

The Jonathin and Polly Lewis land "donation" became the property of the famous William Brickell family in the late 1800s. Mr. Brickell gave a part of this land including a section running through "The Roads" where Metrorail now exists, to Henry Flagler for "the railroad that went to sea". This contribution helped Flagler to profitably build his train and led directly to Miami's incorporation as a city in 1896.

"The Roads" remained undeveloped until the land boom of the early 1920s. Mary Brickell dedicated a plat for the Brickell Hammock area (23 - 27 Roads from Miami Ave. to 5th Ave.) to the City of Miami on Monday Jan. 10, 1922. That Friday (the 13th !) she died. The plans for the Brickell Hammock were included in her will and included the design of having median parks in the center of the residential streets.

Mary Brickell's median "parks" (now called parkways) are several years older than the parkways on Coral Way, which have been designated as historic by the State of Florida. The Brickell Hammock development was completed in 1922. A trolley car to downtown ran down the middle of Coral Way. The banyan trees were planted along the sides of Coral Way in 1929 and were relocated to the median when the trolley was removed in 1938.

"The Roads" were opened for residential development on Feb. 1, 1923. A large land auction of lots in the Brickell Hammock area was held in a large tent set up at 25th Road and 2nd Ave. Full page ads were placed in both daily newspapers. These ads featured the area's proximity to the "millionaires row" on Brickell Ave. with headlines such as "DONT BE AFRAID OF MILLIONAIRES (THEY MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS)". These ads also completely ignored the existance of Mr. Flagler's two-a-day freight trains roaring through the neighborhood.

By 1927 the Holloman Park and Brickell Estates developments had been completed. "The Roads" were one of Miami's first suburbs serving as a refuge from the hectic downtown scene. The first neighbors included groups of Greek, Jewish, and Lebanese descent. The neighborhood social center was the Twin Oaks Skating Rink on 18th Road at 2nd Ave. It cost .15¢ to skate away the evening in the large barn under the giant, live Florida oaks.

Over the years the "Roads" have changed from the edge of town to the center of a metropolis. The construction of Rickenbacker Causway, I-95, Metrorail, etc have brought continous changes. The Cuban refugee exodus added to the neighborhood's already diverse ethnic mixture. In 1986 neighbors formed The Miami-Roads Neighborhood Civic Association to help guide "The Roads" progress in the future.